



HINE
HABERLIN

A TALE OF THREE BROTHERS
PART THREE: SINS PAST

SPAWN®



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SPAWN.COM

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IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN:

Al Simmons was a hit man for the US government until a treacherous assassin ended his life. At the moment of death, Al was offered a deal by the demon Malebolgia and returned to Earth as Spawn, a creature with supernatural powers born in Hell.

As Armageddon consumed the world, Spawn turned against his masters, destroying all life on Earth. While God and Satan continue their endless conflict in a parallel universe, Spawn has re-created the world and resurrected the human race, in what has become known as the White Light. The portals to Heaven and Hell are closed, leaving humanity free from the influence of angels and demons.

Now the cracks in Spawn's brave new world are showing. The demons Ab and Zab, trapped on Earth after the White Light, are doing what they do best — creating mischief. In Illinois, they have taken over a fundamentalist Christian hell house theatre and opened a portal to a backwater of Hell. Now the evil is spilling out in the form of sin-eaters, creatures who gorge themselves on the guilt of their human victims.

Spawn has recognized that the preacher who runs the hell house is Al's youngest brother, Richard. Now one of the sin-eaters has manifested itself as Richard's greatest sin — a man who died back in the summer of 1980. Murdered by the three Simmons brothers.

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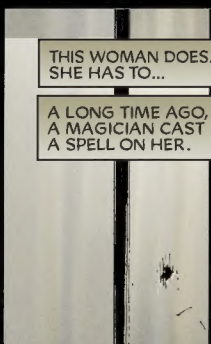
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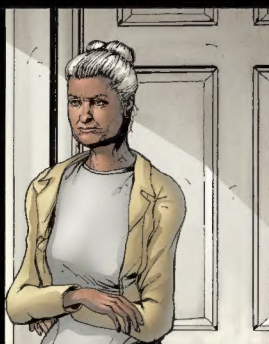


DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?



THIS WOMAN DOES. SHE HAS TO...

A LONG TIME AGO, A MAGICIAN CAST A SPELL ON HER.



NOW SHE CAN NEVER LEAVE THIS HOUSE.

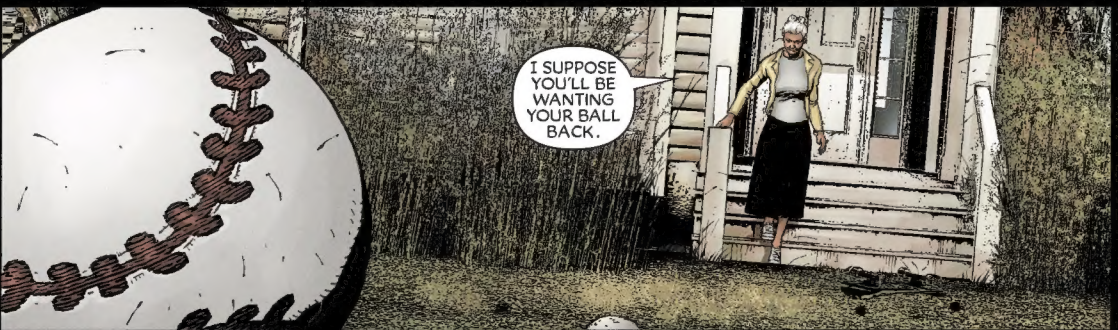
DAMN' KIDS WITH THEIR NOISE.



THINK FAST, JAY!



THE PICKET FENCE MARKS THE BOUNDARY OF HER WORLD.



I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE WANTING YOUR BALL BACK.



SHE CAN SEE
THROUGH THE
BARRIER THE
MAGICIAN PUT
AROUND HER...

...BUT NO ONE CAN SEE IN...

WHERE
THE HELL DID
IT GO?

@\$!!
MAN, YOU
THREW IT.
SHEE-IT!



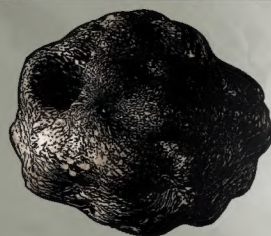
NO ONE CAN
HEAR HER.

YOU WATCH
YOUR MOUTH YOUNG
MAN. THERE'S A LADY
PRESENT.

IT JUST
DISAPPEARED.
LIKE POP! INTO
SOME OTHER
DIMENSION.

THAT'S
LIKE SOME
REAL WEIRD
SCI-FI SHIT
THERE.

DON'T
YOU
IGNORE
ME!

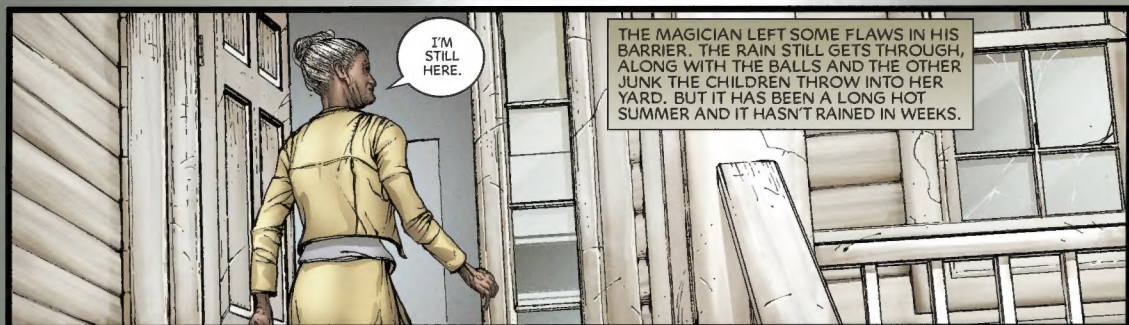


I WILL
NOT BE
IGNORED!

SOMETIMES SHE HAS
TO DO SOMETHING
JUST TO PROVE SHE
STILL EXISTS...



AAAAH!!



SHE MISSES TV AND
TALKING TO PEOPLE
AND EATING.

MOST OF ALL, SHE MISSES
THE TASTE OF ICE-COLD
WATER, TRICKLING DOWN
HER PARCHED THROAT.

SHE PRAYS
FOR RAIN.



WAS
THAT
THE BOYS
I HEARD
OUT
THERE?



NOT YET.

SOON.



THEY'LL
BE BACK
SOON.



MY BOYS.
LOOK AT YOU.
SO HANDSOME.
MARC, AL...



...LITTLE
RICHIE.





RICHIE!
IT'S ME.
IT'S AL.

HUH?
AL?



OH, SWEET
LORD, IS IT
REALLY YOU?
THE DEVIL GOT
HOLD OF YOU
DIDN'T HE?

YOU SHOULD
HAVE REPENTED,
LIKE ME. YOU SHOULD
HAVE GIVEN YOURSELF
TO GOD'S MERCY.



HALLELUJAH!
YOU TELL HIM,
SON.

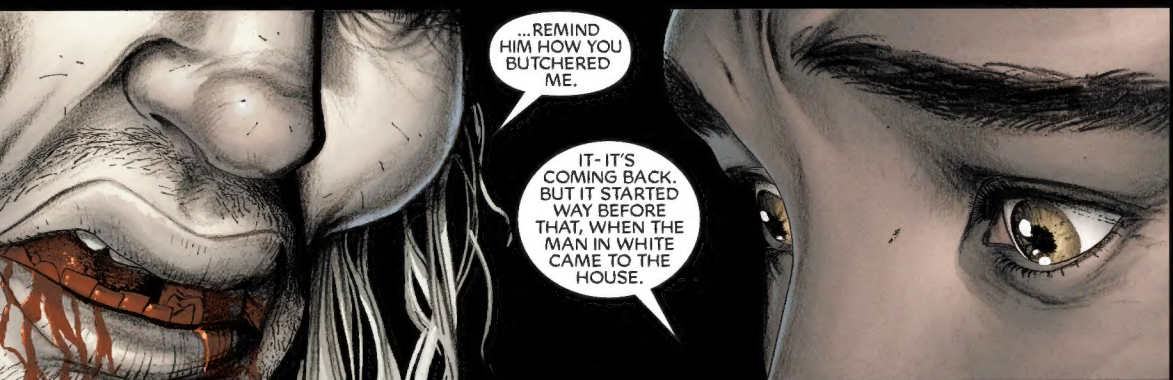
RICHIE, WHAT
HAPPENED THAT
SUMMER?



YOU DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME. THAT THING
IS FEEDING ON YOUR
BROTHER.

JUST A LITTLE
LONGER, NYX.
I NEED HIM TO
REMEMBER.

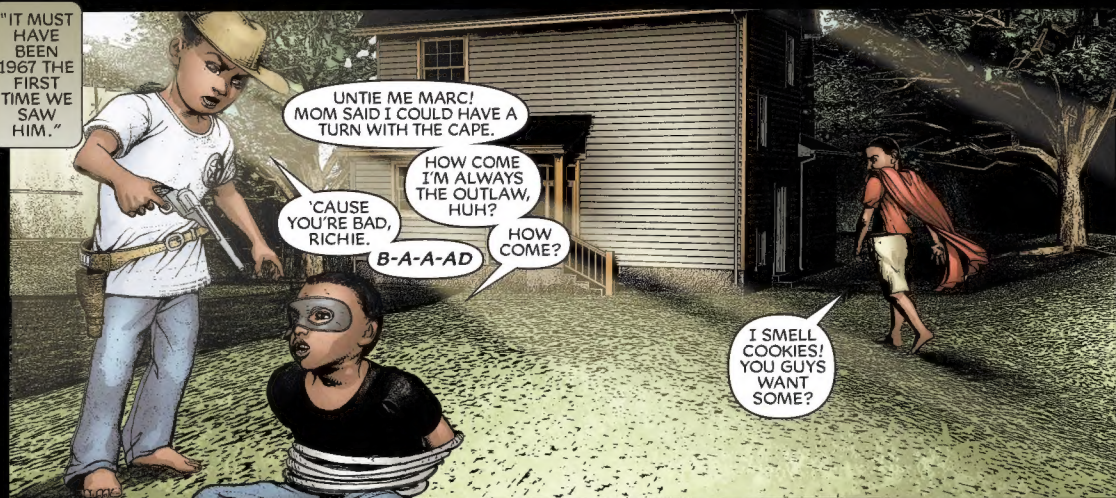
GO AHEAD,
RICHARD. TELL
HIM...



...REMIND
HIM HOW YOU
BUTCHERED
ME.

IT-IT'S
COMING BACK.
BUT IT STARTED
WAY BEFORE
THAT, WHEN THE
MAN IN WHITE
CAME TO THE
HOUSE.

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN 1967 THE FIRST TIME WE SAW HIM."



UNTIE ME MARC! MOM SAID I COULD HAVE A TURN WITH THE CAPE.

HOW COME I'M ALWAYS THE OUTLAW, HUH?

'CAUSE YOU'RE BAD, RICHIE.

B-A-A-AD

HOW COME?

I SMELL COOKIES! YOU GUYS WANT SOME?



GOOTHAM CITY CAN AT LAST REST EASY. THE AL KNIGHT RETURNS!



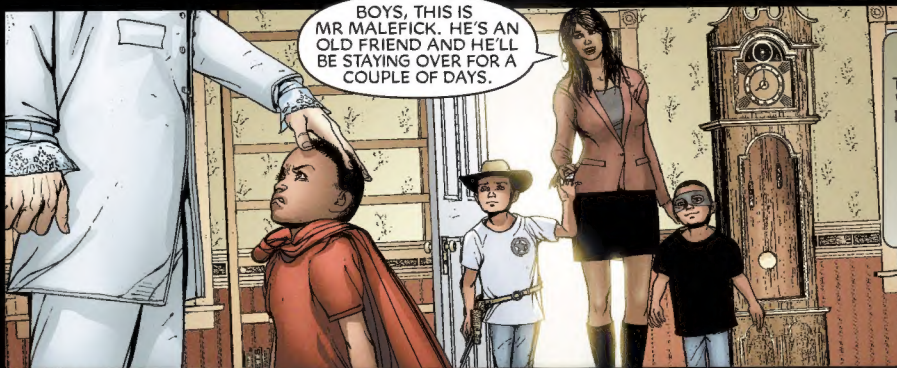
HEY, POP! YOU'RE HOME!



YOU'RE NOT MY POPPA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN POPPA'S CHAIR?

WELL NOW. YOU MUST BE ALBERT FRANCIS.

I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU, YOUNG MAN.



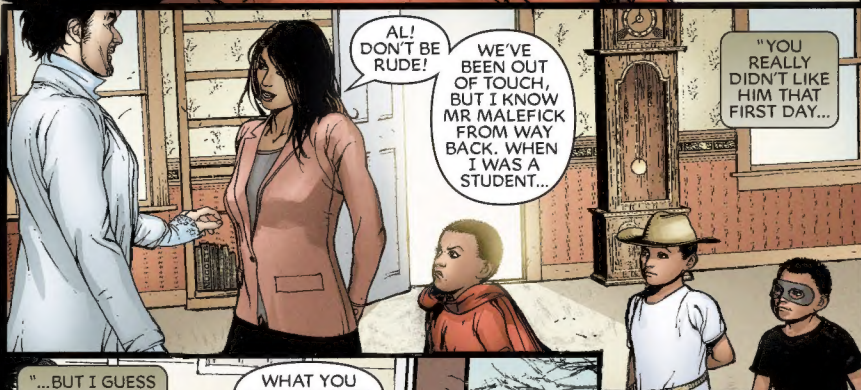
BOYS, THIS IS MR MALEFICK. HE'S AN OLD FRIEND AND HE'LL BE STAYING OVER FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.

"DAD WAS ALWAYS AWAY ON BUSINESS TRIPS. MOM SAID HE WAS AN INTERSTATE PRODUCT PUBLICIST. YOU REMEMBER THAT? IT TOOK US YEARS TO FIGURE OUT THAT WAS A EUPHEMISM FOR A TRAVELLING SALESMAN.



"YOU WALKED RIGHT UP TO MALEFICK. YOU WEREN'T SCARED OF ANYTHING OR ANYBODY."

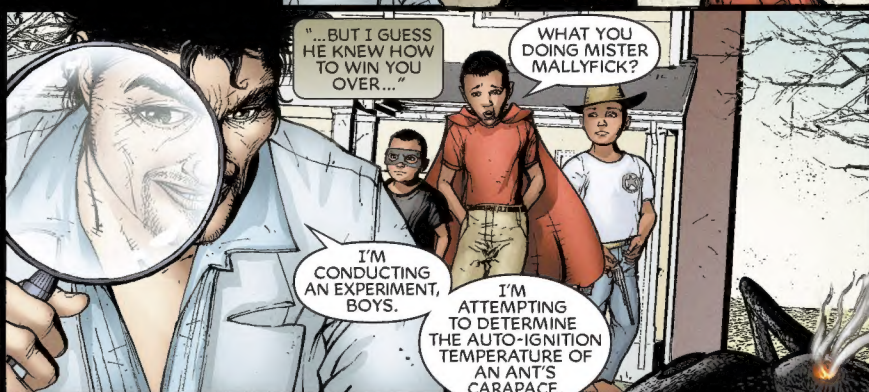
SO IF YOU'RE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS, HOW COME WE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE?



AL! DON'T BE RUDE!

WE'VE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH, BUT I KNOW MR MALEFICK FROM WAY BACK. WHEN I WAS A STUDENT...

"YOU REALLY DIDN'T LIKE HIM THAT FIRST DAY..."



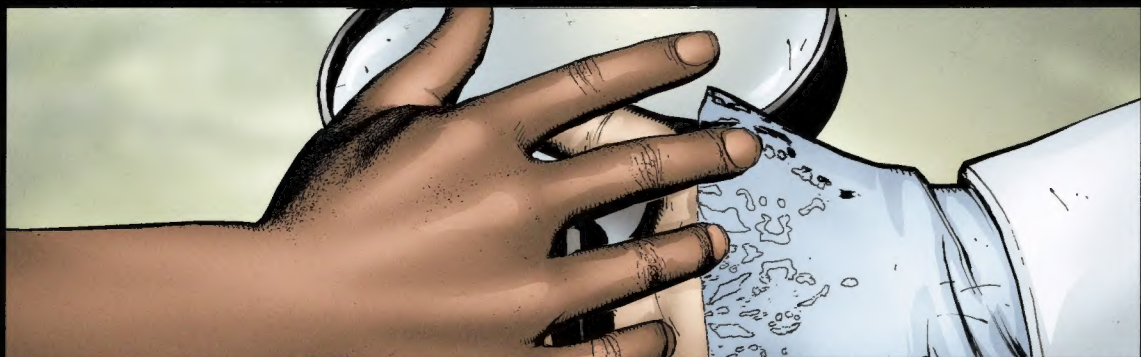
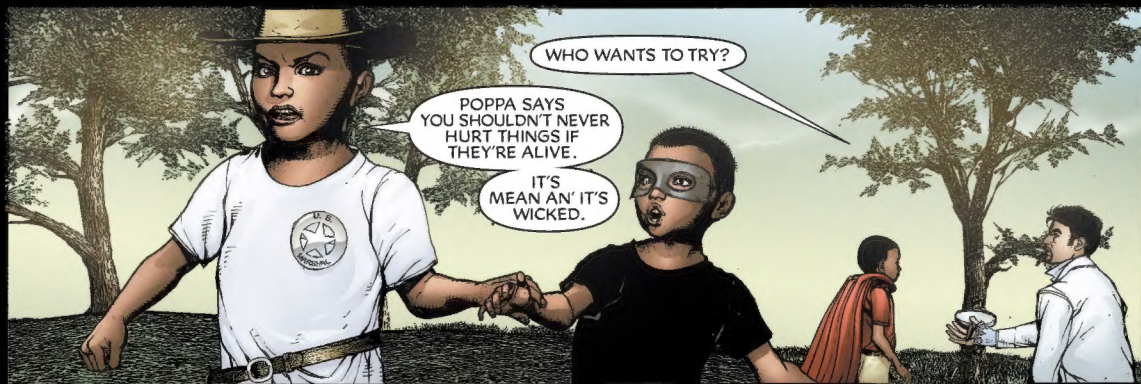
"...BUT I GUESS HE KNEW HOW TO WIN YOU OVER..."

WHAT YOU DOING MISTER MALLYFICK?

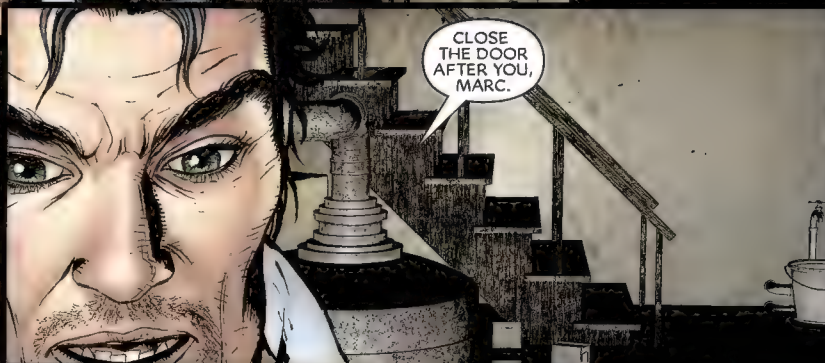
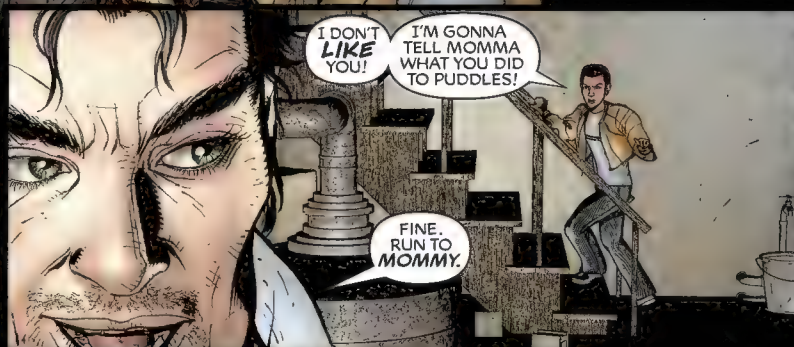
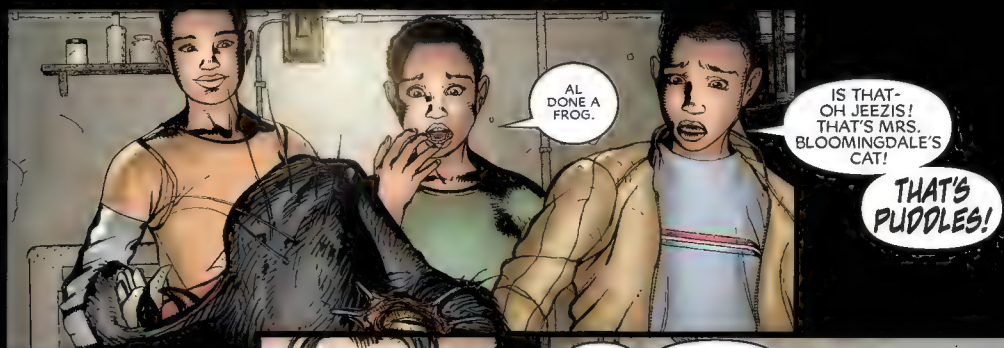
I'M CONDUCTING AN EXPERIMENT, BOYS.

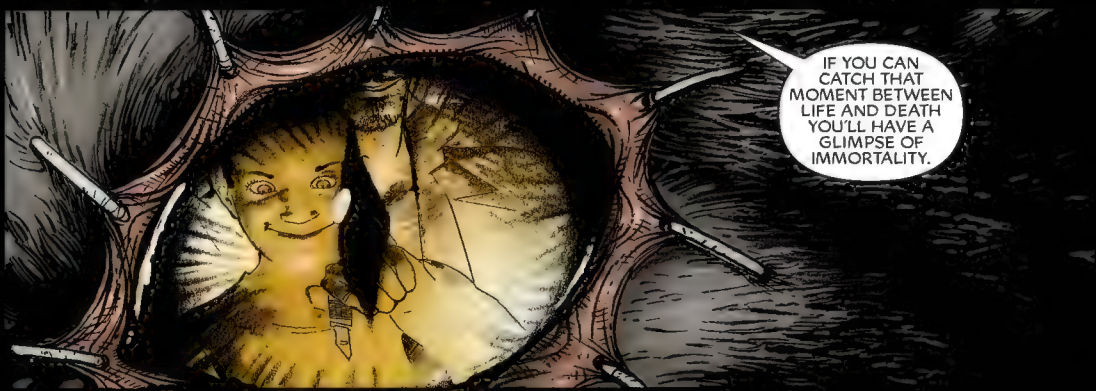
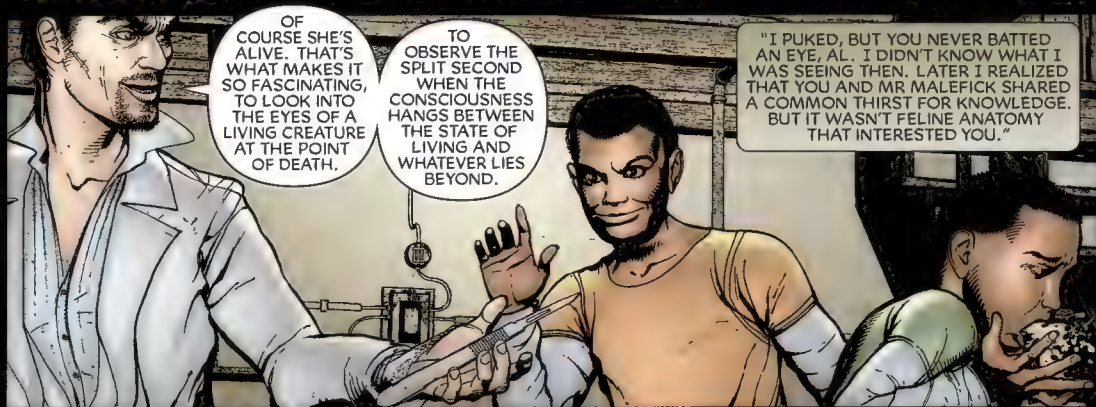
I'M ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THE AUTO-IGNITION TEMPERATURE OF AN ANT'S CARAPACE.

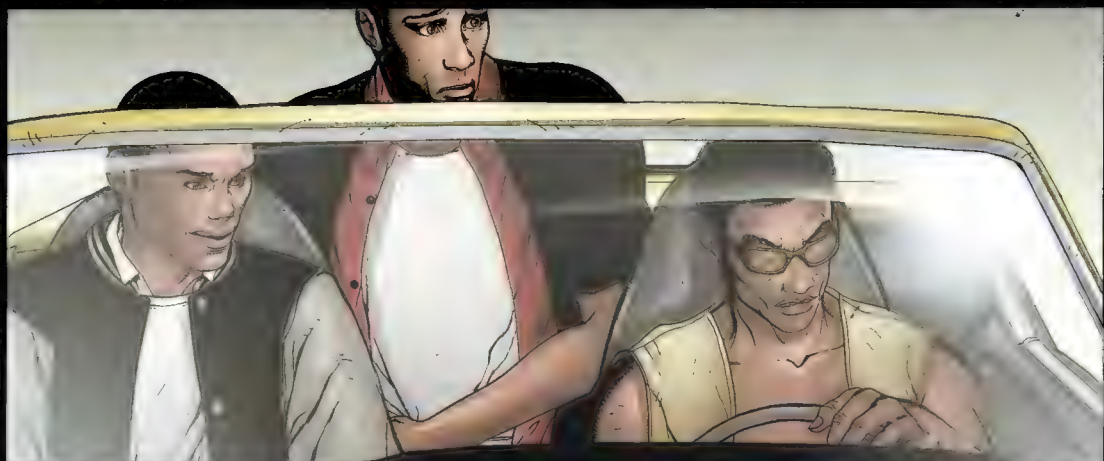
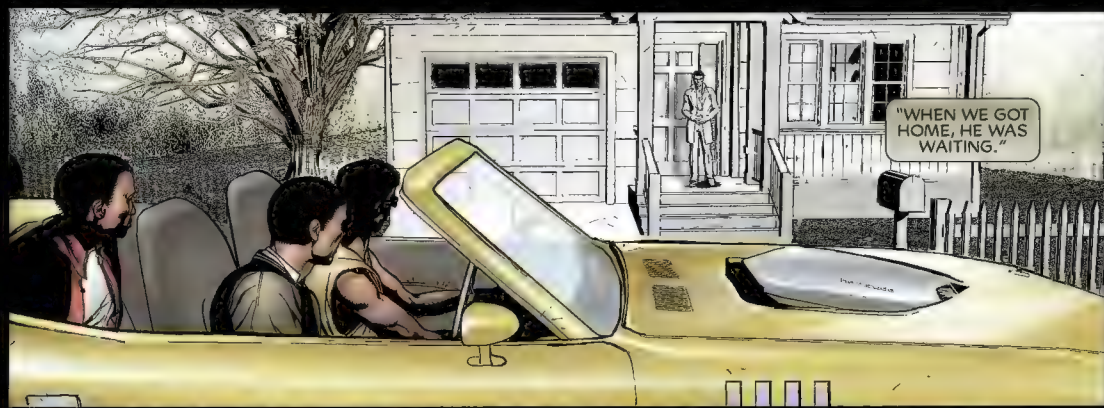
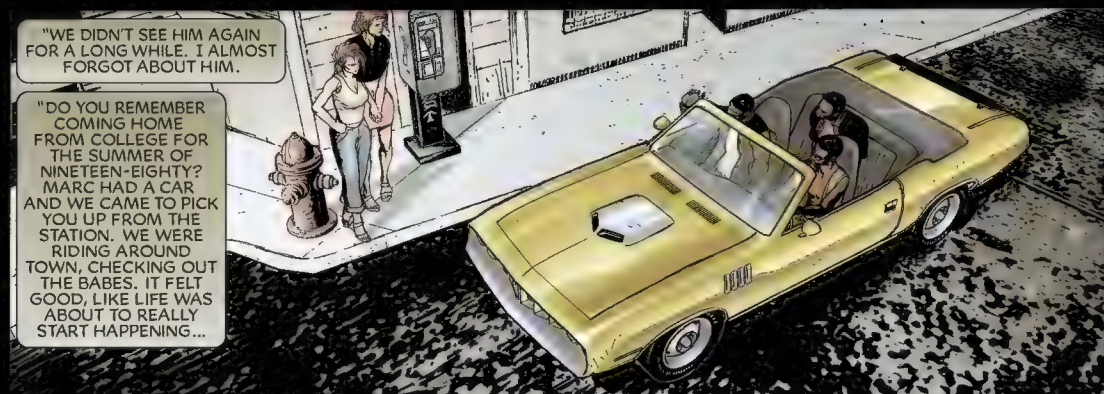












"POPPA WAS ON THE ROAD THAT SUMMER AND MALEFICK SEEMED TO HAVE MOVED IN FOR THE DURATION. WE WOULD HEAR HIM PACING RESTLESSLY DURING THE NIGHT AND WE GUESSED HE MUST SLEEP BY DAY... IF HE SLEPT AT ALL..."

MOMMA, I'M GOING TO TELL POP ABOUT MISTER MALEFICK.

NO! YOU CAN'T!

IT'S NOT RIGHT HIM BEING HERE. IT'S NEVER BEEN RIGHT. SLEEPING UNDER POPPA'S ROOF. HOW COULD YOU-?

PLEASE, MARC. IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU-

"WHEN AL LOOKED AT MARC, WE ALL SAW IT. SOMETHING COLD IN HIS EYES."

DON'T WORRY MOM, MARC ISN'T GOING TO SAY ANYTHING. MARC'S GOING TO MIND HIS BUSINESS.

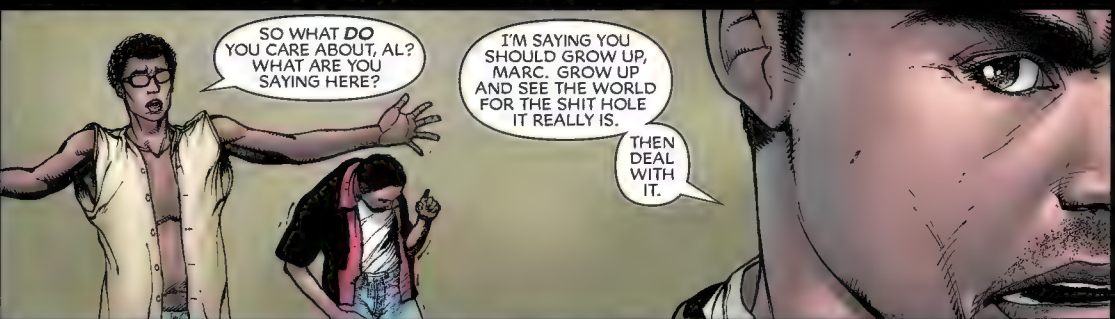
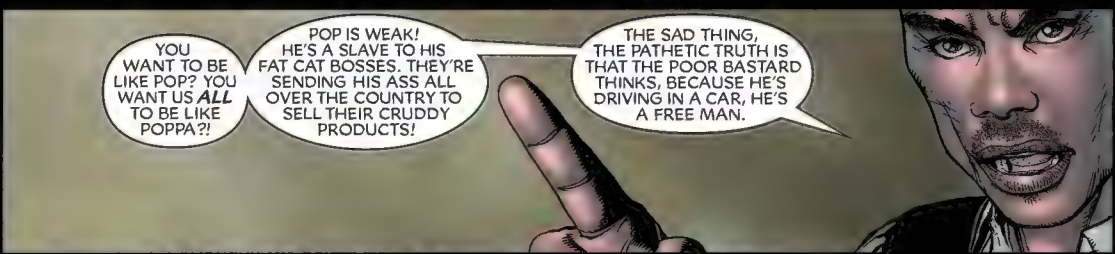
"FUNNY THING IS, MISTER MALEFICK DIDN'T SEEM SO INTERESTED IN AL THIS TIME. IT SEEMED LIKE I WAS HIS FAVORITE."

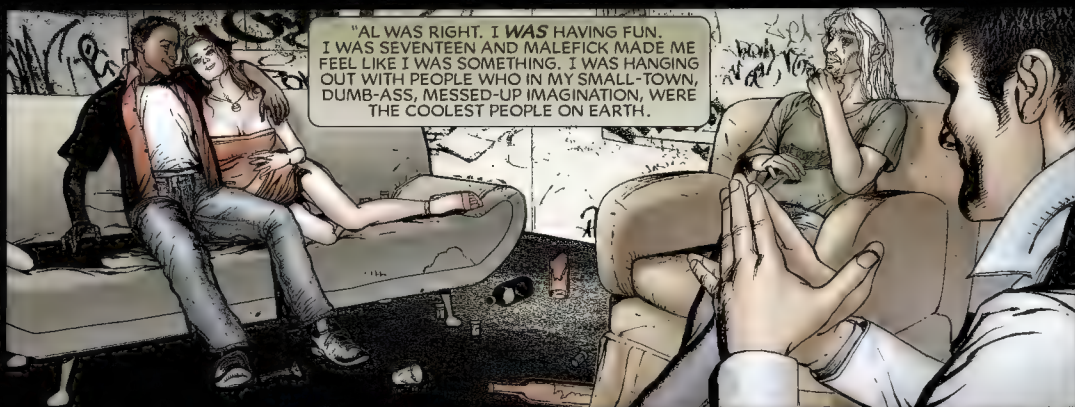
TELL ME RICHARD, HAVE YOU EVER USED DRUGS?

WHAT? NUH-NO, OF COURSE NOT.

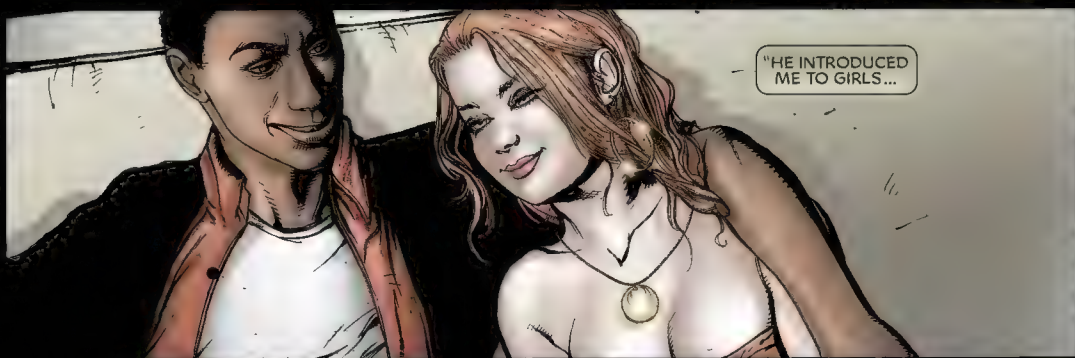
REALLY? PITY. I'M QUITE PARTIAL TO THE OCCASIONAL HIT OF COCAINE.

I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT JOIN ME.

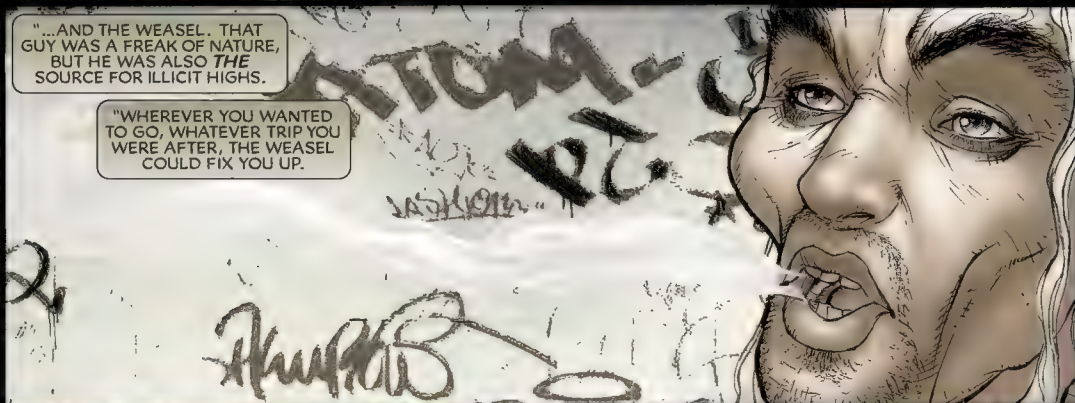




"AL WAS RIGHT. I WAS HAVING FUN. I WAS SEVENTEEN AND MALEFICK MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS SOMETHING. I WAS HANGING OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO IN MY SMALL-TOWN, DUMB-ASS, MESSED-UP IMAGINATION, WERE THE COOLEST PEOPLE ON EARTH.



"HE INTRODUCED ME TO GIRLS...



"...AND THE WEASEL. THAT GUY WAS A FREAK OF NATURE, BUT HE WAS ALSO **THE** SOURCE FOR ILLICIT HIGHS.

"WHEREVER YOU WANTED TO GO, WHATEVER TRIP YOU WERE AFTER, THE WEASEL COULD FIX YOU UP.



"THAT PLACE MALEFICK TOLD YOU ABOUT? THAT STATE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH? I KNEW WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT. I WAS **THERE.**"

"I DIDN'T SEE WHAT MALEFICK WAS DOING. HE HAD THE WHOLE THING MAPPED OUT AND I WALKED THE LINE FOR HIM."



RICHIE, I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME. I NEED YOU TO PICK UP A PACKAGE FROM THE WEASEL.

SURE, NO PROBLEM.



THAT'S A DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD DOWN THERE. YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME PROTECTION WITH YOU.

JUST IN CASE...



"THE TRAP WAS SET BUT IT WASN'T ME MALEFICK WAS AFTER. I WAS JUST THE BAIT."

WHAT?! CALM DOWN, RICHIE. JUST CHILL AND TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.

GIMME THAT.

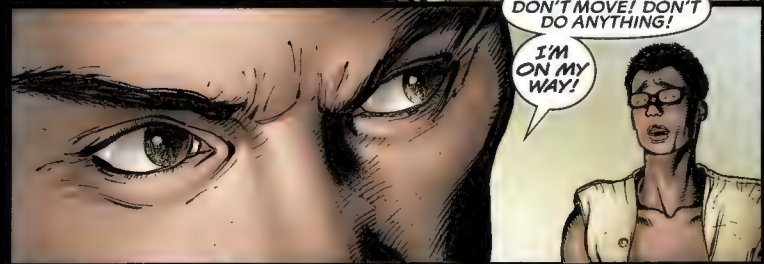


RICHIE? WHAT'S UP?

HE'S HIGH. HE'S TALKING CRAZY SHIT.

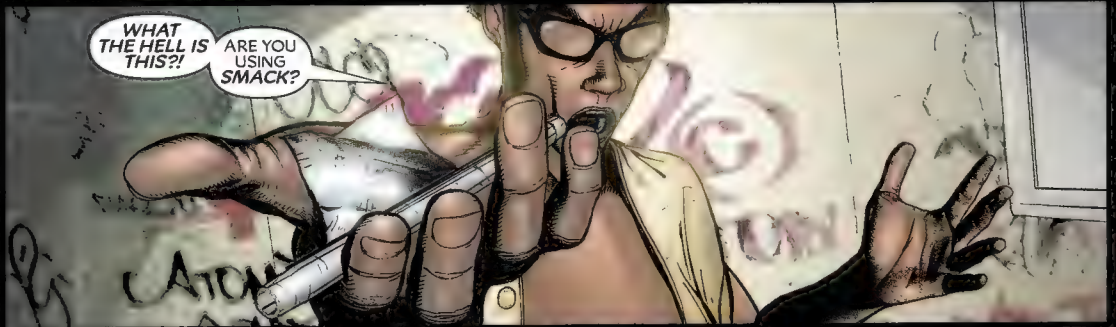
STAY THERE! DON'T MOVE! DON'T DO ANYTHING!

I'M ON MY WAY!



WHAT HAPPENED?

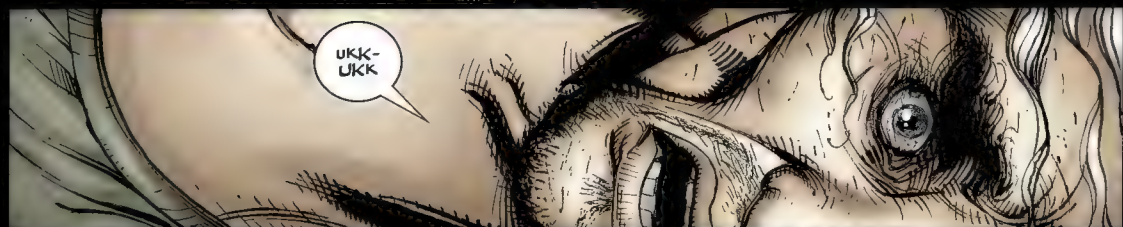
RICHIE SCREWED THE POOCH IS WHAT HAPPENED.





I WOKE UP,
HE WAS... HE HAD
HIS HANDS ON ME. IT
WAS TOO CREEPY, AL.
HE WAS **DOING**
STUFF.

THEN
THE KNIFE
WAS IN MY
HAND...



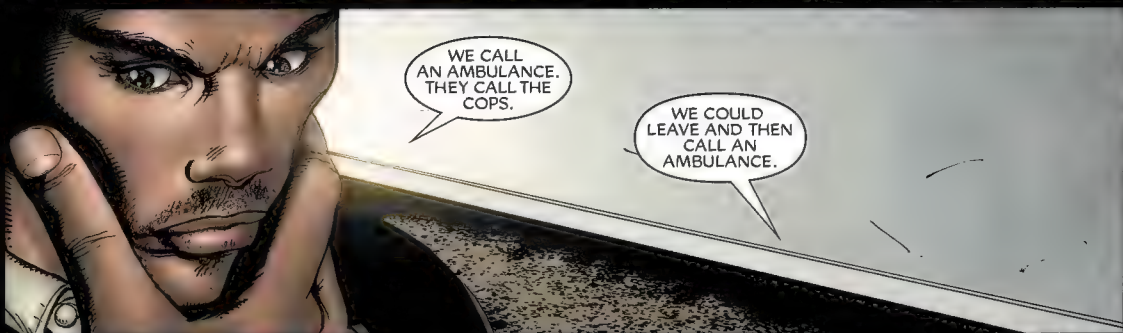
UKK-
UKK



DON'T
TOUCH THE
KNIFE, YOU
PULL IT OUT,
HE'LL BLEED
FASTER.

I KNOW.
I KNOW
THAT.

HE'S BAD.
WE GOTTA CALL
AN AMBULANCE.
HE'S GONNA DIE
ON US.



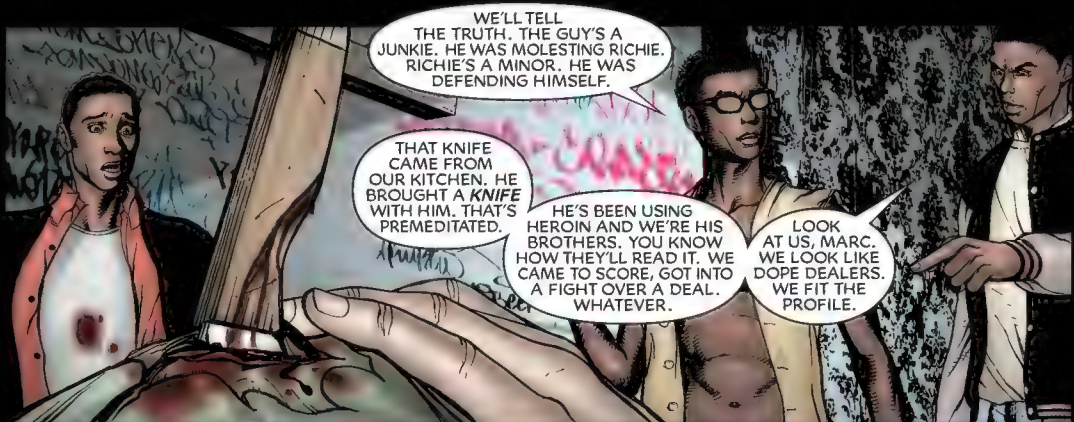
WE CALL
AN AMBULANCE.
THEY CALL THE
COPS.

WE COULD
LEAVE AND THEN
CALL AN
AMBULANCE.



PEOPLE
SAW US COME HERE.
RICHIE'S PRINTS ARE ON
THE KNIFE. CHRIST, HIS
PRINTS MUST BE ALL OVER.
THE COPS WILL PICK US UP.
THEY'LL TEST RICHIE
FOR DOPE.

OH, GOD.
OH GOD. THIS
ISN'T FAIR...

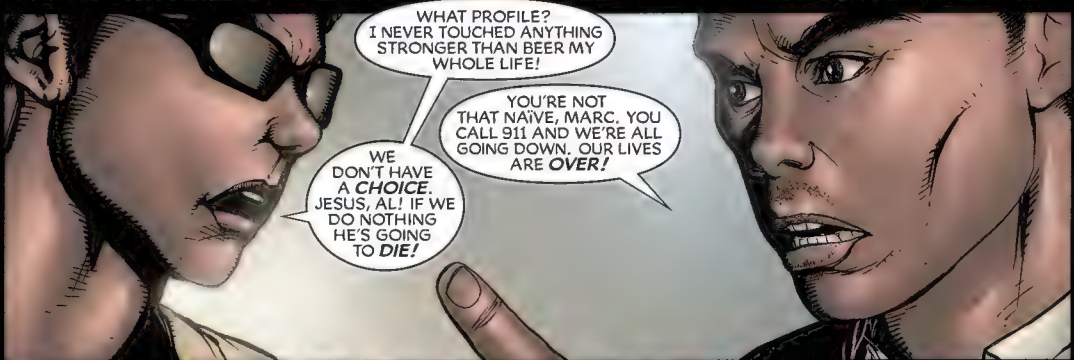


WE'LL TELL THE TRUTH. THE GUY'S A JUNKIE. HE WAS MOLESTING RICHIE. RICHIE'S A MINOR. HE WAS DEFENDING HIMSELF.

THAT KNIFE CAME FROM OUR KITCHEN. HE BROUGHT A *KNIFE* WITH HIM. THAT'S PREMEDITATED.

HE'S BEEN USING HEROIN AND WE'RE HIS BROTHERS. YOU KNOW HOW THEY'LL READ IT. WE CAME TO SCORE, GOT INTO A FIGHT OVER A DEAL. WHATEVER.

LOOK AT US, MARC. WE LOOK LIKE DOPE DEALERS. WE FIT THE PROFILE.



WHAT PROFILE? I NEVER TOUCHED ANYTHING STRONGER THAN BEER MY WHOLE LIFE!

YOU'RE NOT THAT NAÏVE, MARC. YOU CALL 911 AND WE'RE ALL GOING DOWN. OUR LIVES ARE *OVER!*

WE DON'T HAVE A *CHOICE*. JESUS, AL! IF WE DO NOTHING HE'S GOING TO *DIE!*



I GUESS THAT'S THE DILEMMA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO... YOU SAID NOT TO PULL THE KNIFE OUT.



UNNNGGGH!

AL! DON'T! DON'T DO THIS!

"I KNEW THEN,
LOOKING AT YOU
WITH THE KNIFE IN
YOUR HAND, I
KNEW... EVERYTHING
WE COULD HAVE
BEEN... ALL THE
POSSIBILITIES...
EVERYTHING ENDED
RIGHT THERE."







THE
FIRST TIME
I SAW YOU, I
KNEW IT
WOULD BE
YOU!

TO BE CONTINUED...





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE